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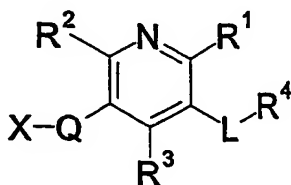
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(54) Title: PYRIDINE COMPOUNDS AS INHIBITORS OF DIPEPTIDYL PEPTIDASE IV



(I)

(57) Abstract: A compound represented by the formula wherein R¹ and R² are the same or different and each is an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted hydroxy group; R³ is an optionally substituted aromatic group; R⁴ is an optionally substituted amino group; L is a divalent chain hydrocarbon group; Q is a bond or a divalent chain hydrocarbon group; and X is a hydrogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, an acyl group, a substituted hydroxy group, an optionally substituted thiol group, an optionally substituted amino group or an optionally substituted

cyclic group; provided that when X is an ethoxycarbonyl group, then Q is a divalent chain hydrocarbon group. The compound has a peptidase inhibitory action, is useful as an agent for the prophylaxis or treatment of diabetes and the like, and is superior in efficacy, duration of action, specificity, lower toxicity and the like.

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